

REMARKS

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

The claims are 12 to 20.

Claims 12 to 20 have been rejected as unpatentable over JP2002-180267.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The above amendment is presented to further distinguish the present claims from the prior art by reciting that the straight chain fatty acid has a "water repellant property". Support is evident e.g. from paragraphs [0075] to [0078] of the present specification. See especially [0076]. Thus, no new matter is presented by the above amendment and entry is respectfully requested.

A comparison between the present claims reciting a "straight-chain fatty acid having a water-repellent property" and JP2002-180267 (JP'267) will now be presented.

JP'267 discloses in paragraph [0016] of the specification that the liquid containing benzotriazole may be acidic, alkaline or neutral and further touches upon the acidic liquid in paragraph [0025] of the specification. It is, therefore, clear that the "organic acid" described in the same paragraph is water-soluble.

The "organic acid exhibiting water-solubility" in JP'267 indicates organic acids having four or less carbon atoms or, as described in paragraph [0025], dicarboxylic acid (oxalic acid, malic acid) or tricarboxylic acid (citric acid) having plural carboxyl groups.

On the other hand, since the "organic acid" in the present claims has a water repellant property, e.g. a fatty acid of a monocarboxylic acid (refer to paragraph [0075] of the specification), it clearly and unobviously differs from the "organic acid" exemplified in paragraph [0025] of JP'267.

Thus, the organic acid of the present claims has a water-repellent property and the structure thereof is shown e.g. in paragraph [0078] of the specification. The water-repellent organic acid is non-water-soluble and, in order to make it water-soluble, a water-soluble organic solvent, such as glycol ethers, alcohols and amines, is required as described in paragraph [0079]. Accordingly, it is clear from the specification that the water-repellent organic acid herein is not water-soluble.

In summary, the present claims, as above-amended, are unobvious from JP'267.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 2011.04.07 12:52:58 -04'00'

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April 7, 2011